

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6 - 13 and 17 - 41 are pending in the application. Currently, claims 1, 6 - 11, 17 - 26, 30 - 32, 35 and 37 - 41 stand rejected; claim 29 stands allowed; and claims 12, 13, 27, 28, 33, 34, and 36 stand withdrawn from consideration.

By the present amendment, claims 1, 7, 17, 21, 32 and 37 have been amended.

In the office action mailed September 13, 2004, claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,397,581 to Vidal; claims 6 - 9, 17 - 22, 24, 30, 31, 35, 37, 38, 40, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vidal in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,045,310 to Miller et al.; claims 23 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vidal and Miller in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,630,449 to Butler; claims 25, 26, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vidal and Miller and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,968,918 to Denison, Jr.; and claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vidal in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,583,583 to Wittel.

The foregoing rejections are traversed by the instant response.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 10 on anticipation grounds over the Vidal reference, claim 1 has been amended to call for "a fluid containment device separate from, sandwiched between, and held in place by said first and second panels, said fluid containment device not being fastened to

either of said first and second panels." A review of the Vidal reference shows that it lacks such a fluid containment device. In Vidal, the circulation channels are machined in the face of the intermediate portion (see column 3, lines 9 - 11). Thus, there is no separate fluid containment device which meets the claim limitation. For this reasons, claims 1 and 10 are allowable.

With respect to the rejection of claims 7, 17, 21 and 37 on obviousness grounds over Vidal and Miller et al., each of the claims has been amended in a fashion similar to claim 1. It is submitted that these claims are allowable because Miller et al. does not cure the above-noted deficiency in Vidal. Miller relates solely to a composite fastener and does not disclose the claimed containment device. Claims 6, 8, 9, 18 - 20, 22, 24, 30, 31, 35, 38, 40, and 41 are allowable for the same reasons as their parent claims as well as on their own accord.

With respect to the rejection of claims 23 and 32 on obviousness grounds, claim 32 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. It is submitted that none of the cited and applied references teach or suggest "a coolant containment device separate from, sandwiched between, and held in place by said outer and inner panels." With respect to claim 23, this claim is allowable for the same reasons that its parent claim is allowable as well as on its own accord.

With respect to the rejections of claims 11, 25, 26, and 29 on obviousness grounds, these claims are allowable for the same reasons as their parents claims as well as on their own accord. None of the Miller, Dension, Jr. and Wittel patents cure the aforementioned deficiencies of the primary reference to Vidal.

For the foregoing reasons, the instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

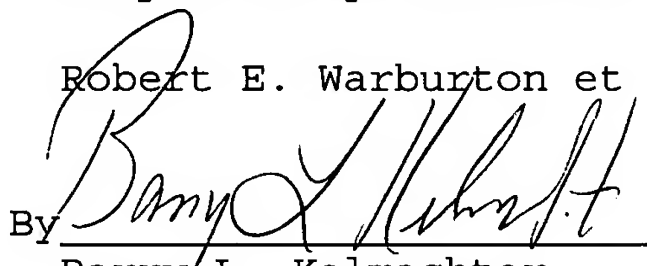
Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Commissioner believe a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 13, 2004.

